



Planetary Analog Site Evaluation Card

Last Rated: 26 Nov 2007 (M. Heverly, B. Bluethmann, T. Fong)

SITE Idaho National Lab – Rye Grass Flats

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LOCATION Country: USA State: Idaho
Coordinates: 43.51939, -112.86877 **Elevation:** +4528ft.
Nearest Airfield: Idaho Falls, ID **Distance:** 50 miles
Map:



DESCRIPTION:

Environment: Dry lake bed

Facility: INL

Crew: INL staff available

Experiments: Surface Ops

Vehicles: All

Open: Year-round



HISTORY

INL testing: Robotics testing with landscaped surface at this exact location ~1.5 years ago

External Partners: N/A

FIGURES OF MERIT

Site value: 1 (low) to 5 (high)

Aspect	Details	Comment	1-5
EXPLORATION			
Environment	Dry cool climate in Juen	High Desert	5
Topography	Small rolling hills	200m x 1 km	3
	Covered in brush	Needs landscaping	2
Terrain	Small particle size, easy to dig	Silt	4
	Physical Properties	Compact, unconsol.	4
	Vegetation	Needs removal	2
Subsurface	?, surface layer is deep (2m)	Dry lake bed	4
SCIENCE			
Geology	Composition (Mineral., Geochem.)	?	?
	Features (Surface, Subsurface)	?	?
	Processes (Impact, Volcanism,...)	water deposit	?
Biology	Astrobiology (Extremophiles,...)	?	?
ACCESS			
Logistics	Airport (Major)	40 min, no direct flights	3
	Road	18 Wheeler OK.	5
	Logistics Infrastructure Base Site	no building (INL)	2
	Water & Food	40 min away	2
	Power	INL has generators	4
	Comms	No restrictions, good cell coverage	4
	Lodging	Idaho Falls(40 min)	3
	Vehicles	SUVs, Rental OK	5
	Waste Disposal	INL supplied	3
	Weather (T Range, Rain?)	60<T<80 F	5
Safety	Search & Rescue	On site (INL)	5
	Medical Support, Hospital	?	?
Security	Controlled Access	INL, restricted access	5
E/PO - PA	Education	prior approval	3
	Public Outreach - Visual Appeal	no good backdrop	2
	Media	prior approval	3
Permits	Access & Land Use Permits	Inter agency agreement	4
Partners	Partner Organizations / Leveraging	INL	5
References	Maps, GIS Data, Publications	INL supplied DEM map	5

EVALUATION SUMMARY

Secure INL Site. Major Moonyard landscaping needed.
 Good climate, considerable distance from town